

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 PRS-01 DRC-01 /077 W

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R 261450Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7138

INFO DECDEF WASHDC

JCS

USCINCEUR ECJ3

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

CDRUSASEFAT EDH-ALTANEA VINCENZA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13277

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO, IT, MPOL

SUBJECT: EXERCISE ALTANEA '74

REF: STATE 202913

1. MFA NATO DIRECTOR DARIN CALLED IN EMBOFF AND RAISED ISSUE OF EUCOM EXERCISE ALTANEA '74 (SUBEXERCISE OF FLINTLOCK '74) SCHEDULED OCTOBER 3-18. DARIN SAID ITALIAN AMBASSADOR BELGRADE HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE YUGOSLAV REACTION TO EXERCISE AND INDICATED HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH U.S. EMBASSY BELGRADE. DARIN ASSERTED IGNORANCE OF FACT AND SCOPE OF EXERCISE AND REMARKED THAT IF IT WERE AS PROVOCATIVE TO YUGOSLAVS AS REPORTED BY HIS COLLEAGUE IN BELGRADE THE MFA MIGHT WISH RECONSIDER ITS ADVISABILITY ON POLITICAL GROUNDS. EMBOFF REMINDED DARIN THAT INITIAL PLANNING FOR EXERCISE HAD BEGUN WITH MODI NEARLY TWO YEARS AND MOD WAS INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN ITS DETAILS WITH APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS OF PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN EXERCISE TO BE ITALIAN MILITARY.

2. AFTER CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF AND MODI BRIEFINGS ON THE EXERCISE (AND WITH ONE EYE COCKED TO A LARGE-SCALE YUGOSLAV EXERCISE IN PROCESS IN POLA AREA SOUTH OF TRIESTE), DARIN INDICATED HE WAS RECOMMENDING THAT EXERCISE PROCEED AS
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PLANNED. FINAL DECISION WOULD OF COURSE BE MADE BY FONMIN

MORO WHO CURRENTLY VISITING U.S. DARIN PROMISED ADVISE
EMBASSY WHEN REPLY RECEIVED FROM FONMIN.

3. EMBASSY ANTICIPATES FONMIN WILL FOLLOW DARIN'S RECOMMENDATION.
HOWEVER, DEPT. SHOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPLY FONMIN WITH ANY
FURTHER DETAILS HE MAY REQUIRE IF HE RAISES SUBJECT WHILE IN THE
U.S.

4. IN EMBASSY VIEW EXERCISE SHOULD PROCEED ROUTINELY IN
CONTEXT ALLIED COOPERATION. HOWEVER, SHOULD GOI FOR OWN
COMPELLING POLITICAL REASONS FEEL OBLIGED CANCEL, WE SHOULD
ACQUIESCE GRACEFULLY. BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EXERCISES, ALTANEA 74, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME13277
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740272-0327
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740911/aaaaajec.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 202913
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXERCISE ALTANEA '74
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, YO, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005